

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 201800Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3908
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, GY, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS SPEAKS ON DESTABILIZATION

REF: GEORGETOWN 2497 (NOTAL) (EXDIS)

1. SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEFT GUYANA, FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS MADE TWO LECTURES ON THE SUBJECT OF DESTABILIZATION, ONE TO A CHURCH GROUP AND THE OTHER TO A PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) DISTRICT MEETING IN GEORGETOWN. SUNDAY'S CHRONICLE AND THE WEEKLY PNC PARTY ORGAN, THE NEW NATION, CARRIED TEXTS OF WILLS' STATEMENT. THE ARTICLE ON DESTABILIZATION PUT OUT BY THE CHRONICLE SIMPLY INDICATED IT WAS A STATEMENT BY THE MFA TO ENLIGHTEN GUYANESE ABOUT DESTABILIZATION AND HOW IT WORKS. IT WAS THEORETICAL IN NATURE, MENTIONED NO COUNTRIES BY NAME, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ASPECTS MENTIONED WOULD ALLUDE TO THE UNITED STATES OR CERTAINLY THE WESTERN WORLD.

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2. HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE IN THE NEW NATION WAS MUCH MORE SPECIFIC IN TONE, AND WHILE THE FIRST PART REPEATED WHAT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CHRONICLE, THE NEW NATION WENT ON AND QUOTED WILLS' STATEMENTS AT A PUBLIC LECTURE. HIS STATEMENT GAVE A HISTORY OF DESTABILIZATION STARTING BACK IN THE 19TH

CENTURY AND WAS AGAIN THEORETICAL IN TONE UNTIL THE LAST PART OF THE ARTICLE. AT THIS POINT, WILLS TALKED ABOUT THE ANTI-GUYANA CAMPAIGN THAT BEGAN IN THE LATIN AMERICAN PRESS IN JULY 1975. HE THEN CONTINUED ON EXPLAINING GUYANA'S ANGOLA POLICY AND HOW IT AFFECTED GUYANA'S RELATIONS AND THEN IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH SAID "HE REFERRED TO THE SITUATION IN CUBA JUST AFTER THE REVOLUTION. THE NATIONALISATION OF FOREIGN-OWNED INDUSTRIES WAS FOLLOWED BY AN EXODUS OF CUBANS TO THE USA AND TO OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THE CREATION OF THE CUBAN EXILE MOVEMENT WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE US GOVERNMENT. AFTER AN ATTEMPT AT OUTRIGHT SUBVERSION FAILED AT THE BAY OF PIGS IN 1961, DESTABILISATION TACTICS WERE TACITLY ENCOURAGED. HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR UNITY IN FIGHTING DESTABILISATION."

3. COMMENT: WE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE SPEECH BY WILLS' AND CHARGE IN A CONVERSATION WITH WILLS ASKED ABOUT IT. WILLS PROFESSED THAT SUBJECT WAS FORCED ON HIM BY SPONSORS OF SPEECH AND THAT HE INTENDED TO DEAL WITH IT NON-SPECIFICALLY. HOWEVER, IT IS OBVIOUS FROM WILLS' CLOSING STATEMENT REPORTED PARA 2 THAT HE HAS REVERSED OR AT LEAST BACKED OFF FROM HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS TO CHARGE THAT CUBAN EXILES ALONE WERE NOW DESTABILIZING GUYANA (REPORTED REFTEL). HE NOW IS QUOTED AS INDICATING IN ARTICLE U.S. IS TACITLY BEHIND CUBAN EXILES.
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WILLS MADE NO EXCEPTION, THEREBY INFERRING U.S. STILL SUPPORTS THESE GROUPS.

4. FULL TEXT OF THE NEW NATION ARTICLE WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
MCCOY

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